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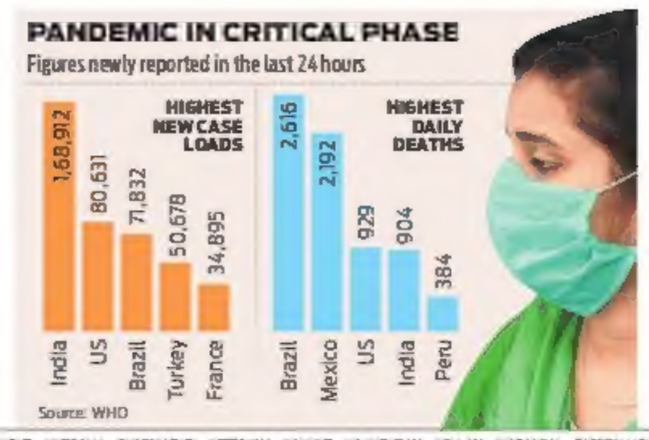

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Let us take Vaccination against Covid-19,
Build Covid-19 Infection-Free society.
VACCINATION MISSION
April 11th -14th, 2021
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene
To register for the COVID-19 vaccine visit www.cowin.gov.in
If you have fever, cold, or any COVID-19 like symptoms, call the Apthamitra Helpline 14410
If you are above 45 years, get yourself vaccinated voluntarily for the safety of your health.
Take Precautions, Stay Safe.
Karnataka Information Department of Information and Public Relations

SPUTNIK V IN INDIA'S VACCINE BASKET

Has over 90% efficacy; to be imported from Russia for now; at least five pharma majors have licence to produce it in the country

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA, CHETANA BELAGERE @ New Delhi / Bengaluru

AMID an apparent shortage of Covid shots and the new monster wave of fresh infections, an expert panel of the apex drug regulator on Monday recommended adding Russia's Sputnik V to the country's vaccine basket.

Sputnik V, based on human adenoviral vectors, is one of the only three vaccines in the world — the others are by Pfizer and Moderna — with over 90% efficacy.

The two-dose vaccine, which has to be administered 21 days apart, costs about $10 or ₹750 per dose on the international market. It is the Central Drug Standards Control Organisation's subject expert committee on Covid-19 (SEC) that met on Monday and vetted the Sputnik V application for Emergency Use Authorisation.

The vaccine developed by Russia's Gamaleya National

Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, has shown 91.6% efficacy against the infection and 100% efficacy against severe disease. It can be stored at a comfortable 2-8 degree Celsius and is also being produced in the lyophilized (dry) form, which makes it easier for distribution.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories, along with at least four other companies, have already tied up with Russian Direct Investment Fund, the co-developer of Sputnik V, for its production in India. Last Friday, the expert panel had sought additional data from Dr Reddy's Laboratories on its Sputnik V trial, in its second such request after an initial evaluation in February.

Top sources said the Drug Controller General of India will now consider the SEC recommendation before it final approval as the third vaccine for administration in India.

The first two are Serum Institute of India's locally-made AstraZeneca-Oxford University Covid-19 vaccine Covishield and Bharat Biotech's indigenously produced Covaxin.

Sputnik V is likely to be imported from Russia initially for emergency use in the country, government sources said.

Sputnik V's approval comes amidst growing clamour to approve other Covid-19 vaccines in India irrespective of their bridging trial status in the country. Authorities concede that while bridging trial data is required to authorise the use of any vaccines in the country under the existing norms, it may be exempted under the present clinical trial norms. P9

Lockdown can't be ruled out if cases rise, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bidar/Bengaluru

"WE have appealed to people to wear masks, use sanitisers, not step out and ensure social distancing. They should respond to this for their own health. If not, then more stringent measures or lockdown will become necessary. People should not give opportunity for that and follow protocols," said Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday.

"Coronavirus is spreading fast. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to me for a few minutes on Sunday and asked what measures we have taken to control it," said Yediyurappa, who was in Bidar to campaign for BJP at Basavakalyan where there is a bypoll.

He said that night curfew may have to be extended to other parts of the State if the number of Covid cases do not come down in the next 15 days.

His statement came on the day Governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala held a meeting with Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar and Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Jawaid Akhtar to take stock of the Covid situation. P7

KARNATAKA

	APRIL 11	APRIL 12
Fresh cases	10,250	9,579
Recoveries	2,638	2,767
Deaths	40	52

'No online exams'

Deputy CM Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, who is also the Higher Education Minister, said it is not possible to hold online exams for higher classes. "Exams will be held only in the offline mode and a few deemed varsities may be able to hold online exams," he stressed. P2

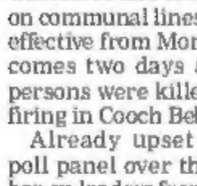
DRIVEN BY DEVOTION

Even as Covid rages nationwide, a sea of humanity converges at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar for a holy dip in River Ganga during the second shahi snan of the Kumbh Mela on Monday | PTI

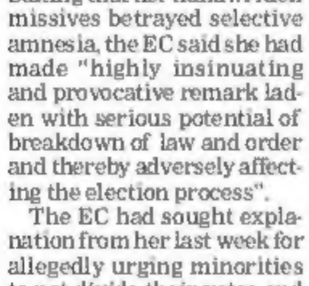
NATIONWIDE

	APRIL 11	APRIL 12
Fresh cases	1,52,879	1,68,912
Recoveries	90,584	91,719
Deaths	839	904

LET THE DEBATES BEGIN
LET'S DEBATE
APR 13 | 6 PM | EDEXLIVE.COM

The New Indian Express Wishes its readers a
HAPPY UGADI

Our offices and press will remain closed today and there will be no issue of the paper on Wednesday

24-hr campaign ban on Didi for code violation



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi/Kolkata

THE Election Commission of India on Monday banned West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee from campaigning for 24 hours for violating the Model Code of Conduct by inciting voters to gherao Central forces and seeking votes on communal lines. The ban, effective from Monday 8 pm, comes two days after four persons were killed in CISF firing in Cooch Behar.

Already upset with the poll panel over the 72-hour bar on leaders from entering Cooch Behar, Mamata branded Monday's order as unconstitutional and announced a protest at Kolkata's Gandhi Murti from Tuesday noon.

The ban was slapped after EC refused to accept Mamata's explanations on two notices it had served on her. Stating that her handwritten missives betrayed selective amnesia, the EC said she had made "highly insinuating and provocative remark laden with serious potential of breakdown of law and order and thereby adversely affecting the election process".

The EC had sought explanation from her last week for allegedly urging minorities to not divide their votes and inciting women to gherao security personnel.

In response, Mamata had said she had not sought to influence people to vote on religious-sectarian lines and her speeches were in line with the spirit of the model code.

EXPRESS READ

Industrial output dips, retail inflation soars

New Delhi: In a double whammy for the economy, retail inflation jumped to a four-month high of 5.52 per cent in March, while industrial output contracted for the second month in a row, falling 3.6 per cent in February. P13